

Newton Public Library Code of Conduct:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for patrons and employees, and to be good stewards of the community's investment in the library building itself. To that end:

1. All persons are welcome in the Library.
2. Parents or guardians are responsible for the conduct and safety of persons under their care. The Library's Child Supervision Policy outlines the ages and situations in which children require supervision in the Library. The Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on Library premises.
3. The Library welcomes service animals that are specifically trained to assist a person with a disability. Pets, emotional support animals, and comfort animals are not permitted.
4. Library materials must be properly checked out. The Library may limit certain materials to in-Library use only.
5. Library staff reserves the right to inspect all bags, briefcases, backpacks, containers, books, and similar items.
6. Shoes, shirts, and pants/skirts/bottoms must be worn in the Library.
7. Patrons must promptly leave the Library at closing time.
8. While the collections are accessible to everyone, the children's library space is for children and their caregivers, and the teen library is for teens 10-18. People of other ages should not hang out in these spaces.

The following is not permissible in the library at any point:

1. Any illegal act or conduct in violation of federal state or local law, ordinance or regulation.
2. Behavior that harms other Library users or staff.
3. Behavior which may result in disturbing other Library users or staff, including, but not limited to: loud talking; obscene, profane or abusive language; running; fighting; throwing things; physical or verbal harassment; sexual harassment; bullying; or threats.
4. Abuse or misuse of Library materials, furniture, equipment, or furnishings, including leaving trash and/or messes.
5. Smoking, vaping, using tobacco products, or possessing or consuming illegal substances. (All Newton parks, including Military Park in which the Library is situated, are tobacco- and vape-free parks.)
6. Consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages outside of an approved Library-sponsored event.
7. Openly carrying a firearm or other weapons, including knives.
8. Entering non-public areas such as staff work rooms, offices, and storage areas.
9. Playing music, movies, or other media, or conducting cell phone conversations, at a volume that is heard by others.
10. Soliciting funds, panhandling, campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, or surveying Library patrons or staff.
11. Rollerblading, rollerskating, skateboarding, or using a scooter inside the Library or on the Library patio.
12. Unauthorized or unscheduled group meetings that are disruptive.
13. Clothing or belongings that are soiled or bug-infested and may cause soiling or staining of Library furnishings, or that have a disruptively-strong odor.

Patrons who violate the Code of Conduct or are otherwise behaving inappropriately may be asked to leave the Library premises. When a patron has been asked to leave on multiple occasions, or when the conduct is egregious and poses a threat to others or to Library property, the patron may not be permitted to return for a set length of time. A patron who refuses to leave under these circumstances is trespassing, and the police will be contacted if needed.